

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for limiting remote display of a local system user interface, comprising:
 - designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions;
 - modifying the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to a remote operator workstation for display; and
 - displaying the modified interface regions at the remote operator workstation, wherein the modified interface regions visually differ when displayed from respective unmodified interface regions.
- 15 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each limited remote access regions is designated with one of two or more levels of remote access corresponding to different degrees of modification such that the differentially modified interface regions may be visually distinguished when displayed at the remote operator workstation.
- 20 3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein one level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a solid visual region when displayed such that no text or image is visible.
- 25 4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein one level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a visually obscured region when displayed through which text or images may be visible.
- 30 5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the visually obscured region comprises one or more of a hatching, a shading, and a tinting.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface.
- 5 7. A method for limiting remote operation of a local system user interface, comprising:
- designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions;
- identifying one or more restricted remote inputs in an input stream to a local system using the system user interface, wherein the one or more restricted remote inputs are generated via interaction at a remote operator workstation with the one or 10 more limited remote access interface regions; and
- removing the one or more restricted remote inputs from the input stream to the local system.
- 15 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein each limited remote access region is designated with one of two or more levels of remote access.
9. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface and the local system comprises a medical 20 imaging system.
10. A computer program, provided on one or more computer readable media, for limiting remote display of a local system user interface, comprising:
- a routine for designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions; and
- a routine for modifying the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to a remote operator workstation for display, wherein the modified interface regions visually differ from respective unmodified interface regions when displayed.

11. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein the routine for designating designates each limited remote access region with one of two or more levels of remote access and wherein the routine for modifying modifies each limited remote access region based upon the designated level of remote access such that the differentially modified interface regions may be visually distinguished when displayed at the remote operator workstation.
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12. The computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the routine for modifying modifies each interface region designated with a first level of remote access such that the modified interface regions comprise a solid visual region when displayed such that no text or image is visible.
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13. The computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the routine for modifying modifies each interface region designated with a first level of remote access such that the modified interface regions comprise a visually obscured region when displayed through which text or images may be visible.
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14. The computer program as recited in claim 13, wherein the visually obscured region comprises one or more of a hatching, a shading, and a tinting.
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15. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface.
16. A computer program, provided on one or more computer readable media, for limiting remote operation of a local system user interface, comprising:
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- a routine for designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions;
- a routine for identifying one or more restricted remote inputs in an input stream to a local system using the system user interface, wherein the one or more restricted remote inputs are generated via interaction at a remote operator workstation with the one or more limited remote access interface regions; and
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a routine for removing the one or more restricted remote inputs from the input stream to the local system.

17. The computer program as recited in claim 16, wherein the routine for designating designates each limited remote access region with one of two or more levels of remote access

18. The computer program as recited in claim 16, wherein the system user interface comprises a medical imaging system user interface and the local system comprises a medical imaging system.

19. A remote viewing system for a medical imaging system, comprising:
a local medical imaging system, comprising:
an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

20 at least one local operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices;

a remote operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals via a network connection; and

25 a limited communication module located on at least one of the network connection and the local medical imaging system, wherein the limited communication module may be configured to designate one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions and to modify the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to the remote operator workstation such that the modified interface regions visually differ from the respective unmodified interface regions when displayed.

20. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 19, further comprising one or more data processing circuits configured receive and further process the one or more signals from the one or more data acquisition circuits.

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21. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 19, wherein the local medical imaging system comprises one of a CT imaging system, an MRI imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, an EBT imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system.

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22. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 19, wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed on at least one of the system control circuits and the local operator workstation.

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23. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 19, wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed by at least one server in the network connection.

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24. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 19, wherein the limited communication module designates each limited remote access region with one of two or more levels of remote access and modifies each limited remote access region based upon the designated level of remote access such that the differentially modified interface regions may be visually distinguished when displayed at the remote operator workstation.

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25. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 24, wherein the limited communication module modifies each interface region designated with a first level of remote access such that the modified interface regions comprise a solid visual region when displayed such that no text or image is visible.

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26. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 24, wherein the limited communication module modifies each interface region designated with a first level of remote access such that the modified interface regions comprise a visually obscured region when displayed through which text or images may be visible.

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27. The remote viewing system as recited in claim 26, wherein the visually obscured region comprises one or more of a hatching, a shading, and a tinting.

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28. A remote input system for a medical imaging system, comprising:

a local medical imaging system, comprising:

an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

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one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

at least one local operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices;

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a remote operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits via a network connection; and

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a limited communication module located on at least one of the network connection and the local medical imaging system, wherein the limited communication module may be configured to designate one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions, to identify one or more restricted remote inputs in an input stream to the local medical imaging system using the system user interface, wherein the one or more restricted remote inputs are generated via interaction at the remote operator workstation with the one or more limited remote access interface regions, and to remove the one or more restricted remote inputs from the input stream to the local medical imaging system.

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29. The remote input system as recited in claim 28, further comprising one or more data processing circuits configured receive and further process the one or more signals from the one or more data acquisition circuits.

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30. The remote input system as recited in claim 28, wherein the local medical imaging system comprises one of a CT imaging system, an MRI imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, an EBT imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system.

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31. The remote input system as recited in claim 28, wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed on at least one of the system control circuits and the local operator workstation.

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32. The remote input system as recited in claim 28, wherein the limited communication module comprises routines executed by at least one server in the network connection.

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33. The remote input system as recited in claim 28, wherein the limited communication module designates each limited remote access region with one of two or more levels of remote access.

34. A remote viewing system for a medical imaging system, comprising:
a local medical imaging system, comprising:

25 an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

30 one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

at least one local operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices;

5 a remote operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals via a network connection; and

means for visually limiting a user interface displayed on the remote operator workstation relative to the user interface displayed on the local operator workstations.

35. A remote input system for a medical imaging system, comprising:

10 a local medical imaging system, comprising:

 an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

 one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

15 one or more system control circuits configured to control one or more of the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

 at least one local operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices;

20 a remote operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits via a network connection; and

 means for limiting the communication from the remote operator workstation to the one or more control circuits.

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